

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 3 of the specification, please insert the following new paragraph:

(New) This application is a continuation of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/747,388 filed December 22, 2000, which is a division of Application Serial No. 09/390,792 filed September 7, 1999, now U.S Patent No. 6,506,149 which issued on January 14, 2003. Application Serial Nos. 09/747,388 and 09/390,792 and U.S. Patent No. 6,506,149 are hereby incorporated herein, in their entireties, by reference thereto. Further, we claim priority under 35 USC §120 to Application Serial Nos. 09/747,388 and 09/390,792.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1 as follows:

(Amended) cup manipulator on a long shaft. The suction cup is to be attached to an arrested heart by suction, and the device ~~device~~ is then manipulated to move the heart around in the chest cavity. A vacuum is applied to the cup to provide suction, and the vacuum is said preferably to have a value not less than -150 mmHg (to avoid tissue damage). The suction cup is made of a soft, flexible elastomeric material such as silicone rubber, has a diameter of approximately 12 mm to 50 mm, and has a textured, high friction distal surface (for gripping the heart). The high friction can be achieved by a pattern of bumps or an absorbent high friction material (such a nonwoven polyester fabric). A disadvantage of the bumps is that they would likely cause trauma to the organ being manipulated (even with a vacuum in the preferred range).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 46, line 10, as follows:

(Amended) Figure 31 is a cross-sectional perspective view of another embodiment of the inventive suction member. Suction member 170 of Fig. 31 has a cup portion comprising a rigid core 172 (preferably made of rigid plastic) and a flexible cup 171 (preferably made of silicone molded over core 172). Rigid core 172 has a shaft portion through which orifice 176 extends, and projections 172A and 172B which extend radially out from the shaft portion. The shaft portion of core 172 is to be mounted through ball 164 of compliant joint 154 (or to another embodiment of the compliant joint of the

invention), and a vacuum fitting (e.g., fitting 157 of Fig. 303) is typically mounted at the upper end of the shaft (so that cup 170 is free to translate relative to the ball of the compliant joint, with the constraint that the ball stops the vacuum fitting at one end of the cup's range of motion and the ball stops upper surface 178 of cup 170 at the other end of the cup's range of motion).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 23 as follows:

(Amended) Conforming seal 175 is preferably made of biocompatible foam having open cells (to allow slow flow of air through seal 175), except in that it is has closed cells (which define a “skin”) on the distal surface of seal 175 (the surface designed to contact the organ).